

her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOL-
UNTEERISM AND EDUCATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, as a member of the National Service Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigoration, and Education or GIVE Act.

President and First Lady Obama have encouraged a renewed spirit of service and active citizenship in America. The GIVE Act answers that call to service by reauthorizing and expanding the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

H.R. 1388 will increase national service opportunities for many more of our citizens. This bill expands AmeriCorps, an existing and outstanding service-learning program with a proven track record of integrating academic study with community service. It also creates four new service corps in the areas of clean energy, education, health care, and veteran service and adds new programs to enable middle and high-school youth and retirees to serve their communities. Finally, this bill expands the National Civilian Community Corps to include disaster relief and energy conservation and provides funds to help non-profits recruit new volunteers.

The GIVE Act more than triples the number of federal volunteers serving in our communities so that an estimated 250,000 Americans will be able to participate in a year of service by 2014. These extra volunteers will help their neighbors endure these tough economic times by improving education, providing food and other services to the disadvantaged, and rebuilding towns and cities after disasters. This bill will also strengthen the economy because every dollar invested in service produces up to \$3.90 in direct, measurable benefits.

Volunteerism is growing in America. From 2002 to 2007, one million more citizens across the country started dedicating their time to worthy causes. Twenty-seven percent of all Americans are now volunteering. My state of Minnesota has a proud tradition of civic engagement. In a study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Minneapolis-St. Paul was ranked number one for volunteer rates in a large city.

American men and women who choose to better their communities and themselves by responding to the nation's critical education, safety, homeland security, and health needs exemplify the values of America. I want to thank every American volunteer and urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING MAYOR CAROLYN
RISHER OF INGLIS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant who dedicated nearly two decades to serving her community. Mrs. Carolyn Risher, long time mayor of Inglis, Florida will retire this week after 18 years of public service.

Born and raised in Inglis, Mayor Risher's dedication to the town of Inglis is deep seeded. She followed her father's example, first serving as Road and Bridge Commissioner before being elected mayor in 1993.

Fondly known as a "Working Mayor," Mayor Risher led by example as hands-on manager, from helping neighbors in the aftermath of hurricanes to raising funds for the annual community Fourth of July celebration. Without Mayor Risher's efforts, the South Levy Recreation Park would not be what it is today.

Mayor Risher cherished her roles as wife, mother and mayor. Married for 50 years, Carolyn and James Risher are parents to five children and eight grandchildren, many who live in the area and will continue the family's involvement in their community.

Madam Speaker, it is public servants like Mayor Risher who keep our communities and towns running strong at home. Her dedication and willingness to serve are admired and stand as a model to others. We thank her for her service. She may no longer be Mayor, but Mrs. Risher will not be forgotten and will surely be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday, March 23, 2009 I missed Rollcall votes 145 and 146. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the following votes:

Rollcall vote 145: Yes on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 918, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the "Stan Lundine Post Office Building";

Rollcall vote 146: Yes on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1218, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building".

COMMENDING BALDEEP DUA OF
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Baldeep Dua of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Entrepreneurial Award will be given to Baldeep Dua because of her extensive leadership, management skills and efforts to benefit her community. Specifically, Baldeep utilizes her management skills in her position as the Chief Financial Officer of Kirusa Inc., an international communications Technology Company located in New Providence, New Jersey. Through her position as CFO, Baldeep has managed to steer her technologically oriented start-up company that is a leading developer of value added mobile services, towards its goal of profitability.

Baldeep is active as an advisor to the New Jersey Technological Council, a group that connects companies, capital and government. Members are involved in research, development, manufacture, supply, and sales of high technology products, services, materials and components. Under her direction, the company is the proud recipient of the Business Employment Incentive Program, recognized as a high-growth company in the critical industry of technology.

Baldeep is also a member of the Board for The Indus Entrepreneur, a group that fosters entrepreneurship globally through mentoring, networking and education. Dedicated to giving back to the community, this group is focused on cultivating and nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs. In 2008, Baldeep was recognized by the Executive Women of New Jersey for her professional distinction. Through this association she mentors other women, encouraging them to take charge and advance their own careers.

Baldeep Dua of Berkely Heights, New Jersey has made significant achievements both in business and in her community. And I am very pleased to congratulate Baldeep for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

STEPHEN MARCHAM OF VERNON,
CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Stephen Marcham of Vernon, Connecticut who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on March 19, 2009.

Steve Marcham was a lifelong resident of Vernon, a town he loved dearly. Steve attended Rockville High School and later enrolled at the University of Connecticut where he earned his degree from the School of Pharmacy. After graduation, Steve returned to Vernon, Connecticut and became co-owner of Vincent's Pharmacy where he had worked since high school. During his more than 30 years at Vincent's, Steve was recognized for his outstanding community service when he received the A. H. Robbins Bowl of Hygeia Award, the Pharmacy Leadership Award from the National Association of Retail Druggists and the 2006 Daniel Leone Pharmacist of the Year award from the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. As his customers could tell you, Steve's care and compassion for his fellow man found their outlet within the walls of Vincent's.

In addition to his service as a community pharmacist, Steve had a deep passion for public service. It was here in the public arena that Steve created a lasting mark as a progressive who built consensus with one overriding goal: improving his community. In 1969 while still attending the University of Connecticut, Steve became the youngest official elected to public office when he won a seat on the Board of Education. After serving on the Board of Education for a number of terms, Steve was elected to the Town Council before being appointed in 1986 to serve as the Mayor, a position which he held until 1989. A decade later, he was re-elected to that office. As Mayor, Steve was well known for his efforts to bridge the political divide. Above all of his political achievements, however, it was the kindness and grace of Steve that endeared him to both his colleagues and the people of Vernon.

Even more than his impressive success as a health care provider and public official, Steve was a wonderful parent and husband. He was part of a beautiful family including his wife Jan and daughter Ashley. They did everything together—trips to Cape Cod, campaigning together for office, attending Ashley's marching band events and family gatherings with the Marchams and the Bozcars.

Steve was a true example and inspiration to us all showing how to balance work, community and family flawlessly. He was in many ways a Jimmy Stewart-like figure from "It's a Wonderful Life." It was an honor to have known him and worked with him during my years in the state legislature and the Congress.

For those of us who knew him and had the honor and privilege to call him a friend, this is a difficult time. To Janice, his wife, Ashley, his daughter, and his beloved mother Frances, we offer our sympathy and thanks for allowing Steve to be a part of our lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Steve Marcham.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversary of Greek independence, which occurred on March 25, 1821. It's been one hundred and eighty-eight years since Greece obtained freedom from the oppressive Ottoman Empire.

Like our own American Founding Fathers, the people of Greece fought valiantly to achieve independence from a sprawling empire that treated its citizens like subjects. The Greek revolutionaries also drew much of their authority from European philosophers, much like our forefathers who were motivated by classical and English values. A culture steeped in such a rich tradition, such as Greece, can be celebrated by all Americans. As the birthplace of democracy, Greece has informed numerous self-government efforts across the world.

The celebration of Greek independence coincides with a Greek Orthodox holiday, the Annunciation of the Theotokos. Yet Greece's bloody struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire bears little resemblance to the peaceful appearance of the Archangel Gabriel. The Greeks endured atrocities such as the Chios Massacre, the massacre of Heraklion, and the Destruction of Psara; most of these conflicts were religiously motivated and they highlight the Greek dedication to freedom.

After eight years of brutal fighting, the Greek people were finally able to achieve independence. The Treaty of Constantinople was signed in July 1832, giving Greece its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

I am honored to cosponsor H.J. Res. 39, which recognizes the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece. Furthermore, I am pleased that this bill is scheduled to be considered by the House of Representatives today.

I would again like to congratulate Greece for celebrating such a momentous occasion. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past, to take pride in your nation, and to look ahead to a future of promise.

COMMENDING MILDRED LEWIS OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Mildred Lewis of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of

women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Civic Leadership Award will be given to Mildred Lewis because of her extensive commitment to making our community a better place. For 15 years, Mildred has served as the president of the Cranford Chapter of the League of Women Voters, coordinating candidates' forums at both the municipal and county levels. Mildred has conducted voter registration drives and prepared and distributed educational materials about voters' rights and ballot initiatives regarding education, women's issues, and natural resources.

Mildred is also a member of the Roselle-Cranford Hadassah where she is active in many aspects, including the Bulletin, American Affairs, and fund-raising dinners. Ms. Lewis also worked as a full time volunteer at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey where she manages volunteers. Mildred also volunteered at Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim as the kitchen coordinator, where she plans and creates meals for more than 100 people.

Mildred has also been active in the Cranford Historical Society and is a member of several other Jewish organizations, including National Council of Jewish Women and the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim.

Mrs. Lewis and her husband George have been married for more than 60 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Mildred Lewis of Cranford, New Jersey has made significant contributions to so many in her community. I am pleased to congratulate Mildred Lewis for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILLY" THOMAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the entire nation, the work of my constituent William "Billy" Thomas. Mr. Thomas is a great man who will be honored by the citizens of Mount Vernon, New York for his lifelong work. It is a body of work that has always personified actions that go way beyond the call of duty. The City of Mount Vernon, New York, will rename South Sixth Avenue William "Billy" Thomas Boulevard, after its beloved local and national pioneer in youth development.

William "Billy" Thomas began working at the Mount Vernon (NY) Boys' Club (MVBC) in 1955. Over the next 22 years he rose from athletic to program to camp and finally to Executive Director. During each and every year, young men were placed in his skillful hands and taught the values of life, service to community, sportsmanship, courage, integrity and respect for self and others. He became an icon, a living legend for his work in inspiring young people to pursue and live positive and progressive family and professional lives.

In 1968, duty to his nation called. Mr. Thomas took leave from his work and joined the United States Army to serve in Vietnam. He